Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN, AND PM DIRECTOR GELB FROM AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PARM

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS TO THE SOVIETS

REF: STATE 53956

- 1. THE PRESIDE T'S STATEMENTS IN HIS MARCH 9 NEWS CONFERENCE ON PROPOSALS HE HAS MADE TO THE SOVIETS REGARDING A CTB, INDIAN OCEAN DEMILITARIZATION, NOTIFICATION OF TEST MISSILE LAUNCHES, AND NOT ARMING SATELLITES AND NOT DESTROYING OBSERVATION SATELLIETS WILL SPARK ALLIED INTEREST AND REINFORCE CONCERNS IN SOME QUARTERS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ENGAGING IN A DIALOGUE WITH THE USSR ON SECURITY ISSUES ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE NOT CONSULTED WITH THE ALLIES.
- 2. THE GESTURE OF CIRCULATING PROMPTLY TO NATO PERMREPS A US PAPER ON THESE PROPOSALS, EVEN IF IT IS COUCHED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS, WOULD GO FAR, I BELIEVE, TO ASSUAGE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT US-SOVIET BILATERALISM AND ABOUT US DISCUSSIONS OF THESE MATTERS WITH THE SOVIETS WITHOUT KEEPING THE ALLIES ABREAST. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. THE FRG AND OTHER ALLIES WILL APPRECIATE THE
EXTENSIVE PROGRAM OF CONSULTATIONS ON SALT AND THE
SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW OUTLINED IN REFTEL. AT
THE SAME TIME, A PAPER ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS
WOULD PROVIDE PROMPT EVIDENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES
INTENDS TO ABIDE BY THE ASSURANCES THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE
GAVE TO THE COUNCIL REGARDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ALLIES
DURING HIS VISIT TO NATO ON JANUARY 24. BY A GESTURE OF
THIS SORT, WE CAN RELIEVE CONCERNS THAT HAVE BEEN
AROUSED AMONG SOME ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF US POLICIES

ON ISSUES RELEVANT TO ALLIANCE SECURITY.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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